

# UNDERSTANDING THE EQAO

MITCHELL WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOL

## What is the EQAO?

The letters EQAO stand for Education Quality and Accountability Office.

They are an arm's-length agency of the provincial government. They are responsible for testing students in Ontario in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 10.

Students are tested twice:

- at the end of Grade 3, to assess what they've learned throughout the **Primary Division** (Grades 1–3) and
- at the end of Grade 6, to assess what they've learned throughout the **Junior Division** (Grades 4–6).

The EQAO provides parents, teachers and the public with information about student achievement as a result of annual testing. EQAO also makes recommendations for improvement that educators, parents, policy-makers and others in the education community can use to improve learning and teaching.

### DO THE MARKS COUNT ?

The grades 3 and 6 tests do not count as part of a student's mark and do not affect their progress or future opportunities in school. The grade 9 math test can count for up to 10% of the student's math mark. However, students must pass the Grade 10 Literacy Test or Literacy course in order to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.



## What do EQAO results show me about my child?

EQAO test results provide a snapshot of your child's achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Students meeting or exceeding the standard (Levels 3 and 4) have demonstrated most or all of the required reading, writing and mathematics knowledge and skills expected at this stage in their education. However, no single test can offer a complete or definitive picture of what

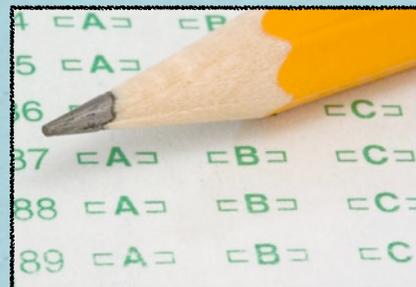
your child has learned. In the end, no one better understands the true measure of your child's abilities and knowledge—or is in a better position to assess them—than his or her classroom teacher. When used together, the results of EQAO and classroom tests provide a more complete picture of your child's knowledge.



**WHEN ARE THE TESTS?** The testing takes place during a two-week period in late May and early June. Each school determines the exact dates during that period on which students will write the test.



**DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO WRITE IT??** Yes, Ontario's *Education Quality and Accountability Act* states that all students in publicly funded schools must participate in these tests. Students don't need to study for the test—we just ask them to demonstrate what they already know.



**WHAT IS EQAO BASED ON?** EQAO tests are based on *The Ontario Curriculum*, which details the knowledge and skills that students are expected to develop in each subject at each grade level.